

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 01683 281723Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OTRA ECON PFOR EG UR
SUBJ: SOVIETS POSTPONE TRADE DELEGATION VISIT

REF: (A) CAIRO 1575, (B) CAIRO 812

1. UNDER HEADLINE " NEW SOVIET PRESSURE ON EGYPT,"
AHAM ANNOUNCED JANUARY 28 IN EXCLUSIVE STORY (WRITER HAMDI FOUAD
IS CONFIDENT OF FOREIGN MINISTER) SOVIET POSTPONEMENT OF VISIT
OF DEPUTY FORTRADE MINISTER GRESHIN TO FINALIZE 1977 TRADE
PROTOCOL. ACCORDING AHAM, SOVIETS CANCELLED MEETING IN
TELEGRAM RECEIVED JANUARY 27, ONE DAY BEFORE VISIT WAS TO
HAVE STARTED. REASON GIVEN FOR POSTPONEMENT IS URGENT TRIP
WHICH GRESHIN REQUIRED MAKE TO NORTH KOREA. SOVIET EMBASSY,
ACCORDING AHAM, SAID VISIT MIGHT BE POSTPONED UNTIL EARLY
MARCH, WHEREAS EGYPT (PRESUMABLY GOE) UNDERSTANDS IT WOULD
BE POSTPONED ONLY UNTIL "SOMETIME IN FEBRUARY ".

2. IN ACCOMPANYING STORY AHAM EMPHASIZES IMPORTANCE OF
TRADE PROTOCOL TO BOTH COUNTRIES. STORY NOTES MANY RAW
MATERIALS FOR EGYPT'S INDUSTRIES AS WELL AS PRODUCT
MARKETS ARE PROVIDED FOR UNDER THIS AGREEMENT. PAPER
REMINDS SOVIET UNION THAT EVEN THOUGH THERE IS A MECHANISM
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 01683 281723Z

FOR MAINTAINING TRADE AT PREVIOUS YEAR'S LEVEL, IT IS
OBVIOUS THAT REQUIREMENTS CHANGE FROM YEAR TO YEAR FOR BOTH
SIDES, AS EVIDENCED BY USSR'S INCREASED NEED (UNSPECIFIED)
FOR EGYPTIAN GOODS IN 1977. AHAM CONCLUDES THAT POSTPONEMENT
IS PART OF FURTHER SOVIET ATTEMPT TO APPLY PRESSURE TO EGYPT,
BUT THAT EGYPT WILL NOT YIELD.

3. COMMENT: AHRAM ALMOST CERTAINLY REFLECTS GOE VIEW THAT POST-PONEMENT IS NEW FORM OF POLITICAL PRESSURE. AS RESULT, PROSPECT OF SECOND GROMYKO-FAHMY MEETING LIKELY TO BE LOST IN NEW ROUND OF ANTI-SOVIET INVECTIVE FROM CAIRO.

4. MINECONY UNDERSECRETARY SHINDI TOLD ECONCOUNS JANUARY 27 THAT GOE PRETTY SURE GRESHIN VISIT WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE. SPATE OF ANTI-SOVIET PROPAGANDA MOVES (REFTEL A) MADE PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED "GOOD ATMOSPHERE" (REF B) TURN SOUR. OBVIOUSLY NO ONE HERE IS SURPRISED AT POSTPONEMENT. FACT REMAINS THAT EGYPT NEEDS TO COMPLETE 1977 TRADE PROTOCOL WITH USSR IN ORDER TO MAKE ORDERLY PLANS FOR IMPORTANT INDUSTRIES FOR WHICH USSR SERVES AS MARKET (COTTON) AND ALSO PROVIDES RAW MATERIALS (IRON AND STEEL). DESPITE CURRENT WAVE OF ANTI

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SOVIET RHETORIC IN POLITICAL CIRCLES, GOE AT SOME POINT IS GOING TO HAVE TO RECKON WITH FACT THAT AGREEMENT IS OF AS MUCH -- AND PERHAPS MORE--- IMPORTANCE TO THEM AS TO SOVIETS. IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO FIND REPLACEMENT MARKETS FOR MUCH OF WHAT EGYPT NOW SELLS TO USSR. THERE IS A VERY LIMITED DEMAND FOR FOUAD QUATORZE CHAIRS.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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